श्री लालू प्रसाद: सर, जो छोटे-छोटे दल यहां हाज़िर रहते हैं, उनका टाईम बहुत कम रहता है। बड़े दल तो हाज़िर नहीं रहते हैं इसलिए उनके टाईम में कटौती करके छोटे दलों को दे दें तो हम लोग बैठे रहेंगे।

श्री सभापति: कल तो मैं इस बात का प्रयत्न कर रहा था कि सभी मैम्बर्स, चाहे वे किसी भी दल के हों, ज्यादा से ज्यादा इस डिबेट में भाग लें लेकिन उस समय किसी ने भाग नहीं लिया और क्या एक रात में ही इतना अकाल पड़ गया कि इतने प्रश्न खड़े हो गए? यह ठीक नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... मेरी सुन लीजिए...(व्यवधान)....

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, the State of Kerala is not included in the list of drought-affected States, which has been prepared by the Union Government. It is one of the worst hit States. It is not only worst hit, but cash crops have also failed there. And, there is no financial help from the Central Government. No drought relief and other measures are being undertaken by the Central Government.

श्री सभापति: आप बताइए, आप कल कहां थे?....(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, yesterday, I was not present in the House when the discussion on drought took place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you have missed the chance.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, the Question No. 62 is about drought. So, I want to put one supplementary. The hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; Question No. 63.

Export of medicinal plants

*63. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:†
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what bottlenecks India is facing in playing a major role in the supply of medicinal and herbal plants for the global herbal medicine and cosmetics industry; and

(b) the agencies involved in encouraging farmers to use latest technological developments for better and quicker yields of such plants and selling the produce in the global market?

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati N.P. Durga.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The low share of India's presence in the global trade of medicinal plants could be attributed to poor quality of produce, Unorganized production and marketing system, lack of awareness and inadequate database. A Task Force on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants constituted by the Planning Commission has identified the following bottlenecks in the development of medicinal plants:

1. The medicinal plants are collected mostly from the wild without paying attention to the stage of maturity, stored haphazardly for long period of time under unsuitable conditions thereby causing deterioration in the quality which are not acceptable to importers and standard drug manufacturing Units.
2. The marketing of Medicinal Plants is inefficient, informal, secretive and opportunistic. As a result, raw material supply situation is shaky, unsustainable and exploitative. This results in depletion of resource base, exploitation of rural people, adulteration and non-availability of quality herbal drugs for domestic consumption as well as for exports.
3. As forest habitats disappear and overharvesting for commercial use reduces the stocks of wild medicinal plant material, there is a corresponding drop in the availability of the plants normally used as the first and last resort for all health care by rural population.
4. Despite the wealth of resources available, the sector has not developed owing to the absence of suitable standardization, quality control and efficacy of drugs. It has yet to formalize and organize marketing and trade and integrate the development of medicinal plants form production to consumption to boost export of herbal formulations.

5. The medicinal plants sector has a number of stakeholders having divergent interests. There is lack of coordination and each stakeholder is interested in strengthening specific aspects of his sector only and ignoring the overall development.

6. Several constraints exist due to inadequate awareness; inadequate investments in research and development; manufacturer — exporter dissonance; lack of quality and standardization norms; and lack of adequate marketing and trade information.

The Central Government have taken various initiatives to promote Research and Development of medicinal plants in the country including creation of infrastructure for quality testing. The following agencies are involved in encouraging the farmers to use the latest technologies for getting higher yield and deriving higher income:

(i) The National Research Centre on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand, Gujarat under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is carrying out research work exclusively on medicinal and aromatic plants.

(ii) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and its constituent laboratories including Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) are also carrying our research activities for the development of these plants.

(iii) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing developmental programmes on medicinal and aromatic plants through Plan Scheme to address the issues of quality planting material, conservation of germplasm, coverage of area under improved varieties and quality assessment through Regional Analytical Laboratories.

(iv) National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing various programmes in an integrated manner and is overseeing the overall

development of medicinal plants in the country as an Apex Body.

SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Sir, as we all know, India has one of the richest plant medical cultures in the world. India's per capita annual consumption of drugs of Rs. 125 is the lowest in the world as medicinal plants constitute the principal health care resources for the majority of population.

Sir, from the reply, it is evident that the Government have not yet taken adequate steps for growing medicinal plants methodically for use in drugs, as well as for exports.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to establish more certification laboratories for standardisation and quality control of medicinal plants for export purposes in different parts of the country, where medicinal plants are conserved for exports; and policy directives proposed for facilitating protection of patent rights and Intellectual Property Rights of medicinal plants.

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव: महोदय, जो इसका प्रश्न है, उसका उत्तर सभापटल पर रखा गया है। उसमें हमने विस्तार से इस बात की चर्चा की है। योजना आयोग के द्वारा जो एक टास्क फोर्स बनाई गई थी, उसकी तरफ से हमारे पास 6 सुझाव आए थे। जो सभापटल पर कागज है उसमें ये योजना आयोग वाले 6 सुझाव भी हैं। इसके अलावा भारत सरकार द्वारा उच्च स्तर की उपज को प्राप्त करने तथा उच्चतर आमदनी लेने हेतु अब तक जो टैक्नॉलोजी हमारे पास विकसित की गई है, उसके भी चार बिन्दु हमने स्पष्ट रूप से रख दिए हैं कि भारत सरकार की क्या नीति है। जिसमें उनको अनुसंधान के लिए बढ़ाना, किसान को उसमें सहयोग करना, उनको हर तरह से प्रयोगशाला बनाने के लिए देना, गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए देना, उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के लिए, उनके निर्यात के लिए इत्यादि जितनी चीज उसमें हो सकती है, भारत सरकार की तरफ जो औषधि और सुगंधित पौधे उपजाने वाले हैं, उनको हर तरह से सहयोग और हर तरह की सुविधा देते हैं। उसकी सारी व्यवस्था सरकार के द्वारा होती है।

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. I want to know from the Minister what steps he would take to ensure that foreign agencies do not purchase medicinal herbs from the

tribal people directly at lesser prices; and the action proposed to be taken to utilise medicinal herbs for our own production. Sir, in this connection, I would like to say that certain areas like Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Adilabad, Khammam, etc. in Andhra Pradesh are very rich in herbal medicinal plant resources. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government has prepared any plan, or, proposed to make use of the herbal wealth of that region. If so, the details thereof? If not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard.

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव: महोदय, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद् और शिक्षा विभाग परिषद् के तत्वावधान में जो औषधि है सुगंधित पौधों से संबंधित अनुसंधान कार्य करता है, वह अपनी जगह पर है। दूसरी तरह से जो स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा बोर्ड बनाया हुआ है औषधि पौधे के लिए या जो सुगंधित वनस्पतियां हैं उनके लिए, स्वास्थ्य विभाग की तरफ से एक बोर्ड है वह भी इस काम को देख रहा है। आन्ध्र प्रदेश का जहां तक सवाल है, जहां उनकी औषधियों का निर्माण होता है, उनकी बिक्री का, किसान को अधिक से अधिक सहुलियत देने का, मार्केटिंग का, इस सब पर भी हम लोग प्रयत्नशील रहते हैं कि उसकी कैसे मार्केटिंग हो, अधिक से अधिक उनको बढ़ावा मिले। अधिक से अधिक बढ़ावा तब मिलेगा जब देश के लोग अधिक से अधिक आयुर्वेदिक पद्धतियों, जड़ी-बूटियों का इस्तेमाल करेंगे।

श्री सभापति: प्रश्नकाल समाप्त हुआ।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

International decade for culture of peace and non-violence

*64. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the United Nations' declaring 2001—2010 as the International decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the World, Government have drawn out elaborate programmes for the children of India; and